

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scheler et al. in view of a Journal article by Pierrot et al., entitled "Coupling of diazonium compounds with 2-methylbenzothiazoles".

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit that the cited references do not teach or suggest the present invention, whether taken alone or in combination.

The present invention relates to a recording material comprising, on a support, a recording layer including a diazo compound, a coupler compound of formula (1) that can react with the diazo compound and a metal salt.

Scheler et al. discloses a two-component diazotype material including one or several light-sensitive layers, each of which contains at least one light-sensitive diazonium salt and a coupler component. At least one of the light-sensitive layers also contains an ultraviolet light-absorbing compound. The benzothiazole indicated by the Examiner is added as this ultraviolet light-absorbing compound and does not have coupling activity (thus does not function as a coupler). The Examiner argues that Pierrot et al. discloses the use of benzothiazole, 2-[(p-nitrophenylazo)methyl-] as a coupler, and that it is obvious for one of skill in the art to combine it with the disclosure of Scheler et al. However, the benzothiazole disclosed by Scheler et al. is added as an ultraviolet light-absorbing compound, and does not have coupling activity (and thus does not function as a coupler). Therefore, there is no suggestion or motivation to replace benzothiazole of Scheler et al. with the coupler of Pierrot et al. (benzothiazole, 2-[(p-nitrophenylazo)methyl-]).

Accordingly, the present invention is not rendered obvious by the cited references.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

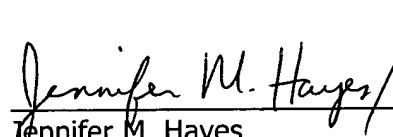
Respectfully submitted,

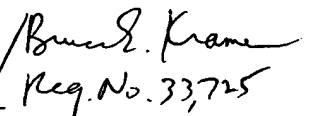
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